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Winnipeg metro
Your essential daily news | MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2015

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metro NEWS
• LOCAL
• CANADA
• WORLD
• VIEWS
Your essential daily news
THE TIME CAPSULE EDITION
Monday, December 28, 2015

Winnipeg eagerly awaits the groundbreaking on the Southwest Transitway and Pembina Highway Underpass project, a $587-million initiative that would extend the BRT by 7.6 kilometres. UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA/HANDOUT

Syrian refugees arrive at the island of Kos, Greece, after crossing from Turkey in August. Many have been approved for entry to Canada, including some to Winnipeg. ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Most of Winnipeg cheered on Oct. 19 when Justin Trudeau won the federal election and became Prime Minister. Every seat in the city went Liberal red except one. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CULTURAL EVOLUTION

Big things are happening; we record them in this edition

Elisha Dacey
Metro | Winnipeg

Welcome to Metro's Time Capsule. Maybe you're wondering what it is you're holding. Allow me to explain.

This past year, it seemed to us, was a year in which we were on the verge of … something. We couldn't put our finger on exactly what it was, but change was undeniably in the air.

We saw it in our cities, in our country, and in our world. We saw it on our TVs, laptops, and phones. We saw it in Paris, in Ottawa, and south of the border. We saw it in how we talked to and treated each other.

In most cases, the changes are for the better: Think of what the Syrian refugees will do to enrich our culture make our cities more interesting places to live. Think of what the recently signed climate accord could mean.

And think of what's going on in your own backyard. Winnipeg started to tackle the issue of racism head-on when branded the most racist city in Canada with the ONE Summit. We started to take stock of the city's most vulnerable with the first street census on homelessness and plans to change it.

At times like these the desire to look ahead is matched only by the desire to take stock — to preserve for posterity a world and way of life that won't be entirely familiar to the future.

Hence, our Time Capsule. We've collected artifacts that signify some of the momentous changes — also some of the weird and random changes — that are underway (or imminent) and we've stuffed them into the edition you're holding. On every page you'll find a story about one of them.

It's our duty as journalists to preserve our moment in time, and we hope it will be your pleasure as readers to marvel at a world that has still yet to become what it will become.

Save this newspaper. Stuff it in a bottle and send it out at sea. Bury it in your backyard, mark the spot on a map and open it in five years, 10 years, 30 years.

You won't believe what you'll read.

Change was undeniably in the air this year.

METRO'S TIME CAPSULE 2015

SAVE THIS PAPER AND SEND IT OUT TO SEA

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HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS

COMMUNITY

Census says 2,000 people on street daily

Michelle Bailey
For Metro | Winnipeg

This sleeping bag belonged to a man named William. A 57-year-old indigenous man who left his reserve hundreds of miles north of Winnipeg searching for a new life.

He dreamed of living where he would have access to running water, a daily meal and a comfortable place to sleep without having to share a small, dirty space with nine other people. Maybe, he would even get a job, although he had nothing more than a Grade 7 education.

What William ended up with was a life on the streets. He had no phone or fixed address, so getting a job was next to impossible. Not to mention he drank. A lot. And the streets of the core area of the city were not friendly to him. Others who searched for the freedom of simple everyday life joined him in a daily struggle to find a warm meal, clean clothes and a place to rest at the end of the day without worrying about being beaten up while under an intoxicated fog due to addiction.

William made friends on the streets, but they came and went. Many people he developed friendships with disappeared and he never saw them again.

He would roll up his sleeping bag every morning, thankful that he was still alive. This man who never married or had children of his own would choose a place to panhandle and bring out his sign and a paper cup that he picked out of the garbage. He tried to change locations often.

In 2015, it was estimated that on average, 2,000 individuals in Winnipeg were either couch-surfing with people they know, sleeping on the streets, finding a place to rest in an abandoned car or panhandling to pay for a meal. William was a statistic.

One chilly day in December, William decided to beg for help at a liquor store close to downtown Winnipeg. People came and went. Some plunked change into his cup, most walked by briskly, trying not to make eye contact. That didn't stop William from providing a smile or a tip of his dirty ball cap as a sign of respect. He understood that many folks were reluctant to give him money. "He'll spend it on booze or drugs" is what he knew they were thinking.

The city is moving towards a housing-first approach to help tackle homelessness. THINKSTOCK

A woman approached him, asking, "How are you doing today?" William grinned and said, "Very well." The woman said, "All I have is $6, but if you promise to spend it on food, I will give it to you." William explained that he had been clean for a while and had every intention of spending his earnings on a warm meal. She gave him the money, and after he thanked her, she watched him pick up his sleeping bag, squish his sign into his pocket, count up his earnings and walk over to a nearby coffee shop to buy a bowl of soup, a sandwich and a cup of tea.

She followed him, sat down with him and they talked briefly about his life. She then made him a new sign, reading, "Please help feed my stomach, not my addiction." He liked his new sign. She kept his old one and provided it to this time capsule.

In August 2015, some 100 people from the corporate community slept in sleeping bags in downtown Winnipeg to raise awareness about homelessness, and money for programs that provide housing and jobs for those without a home. Their hope, and William's wish, is that no one will ever need to rest in a sleeping bag or carry a sign asking for help in 2115.

INTO THE CAPSULE

A panhandler's letter

The first ever homeless street census shows there were about 2,000 people on city streets daily and a lack of resources to help them. Can we look past our own preconceived notions over the next 100 years and understand that housing is the first step to helping the homeless, not the last?

Winnipeg

WINNIPEG TRANSIT 2016 FARES
In effect January 1, 2016

New Transit and Handi-Transit fares will be in effect January 1, 2016. Winnipeg Transit continues to offer reduced fares to seniors (65+) and qualifying students. Winnipeg Transit would like to remind all customers that tickets provide substantial savings compared to cash fares.

For even greater savings and convenience, consider buying a weekly or monthly bus pass. Pass customers enjoy unlimited travel plus are eligible to receive a 15% Federal Government Transit Tax Credit. Tickets and passes are sold at over 140 retail outlets throughout the city, visit winnipegtransit.com or call 311 for locations.

2016 FARES	FULL[1]	REDUCED[2] (YOUTH)	SENIORS[3]	HANDI-TRANSIT
Cash	$2.65	$2.15	$2.15	$2.65
Ticket	$2.30	$1.61	$1.15	$2.30
Max 5 (5 day pass valid Mon-Fri)	$20.70			
SuperPass (7 day pass valid Mon-Sun)	$23.00	$16.10	$11.50	
Monthly Pass	$88.55	$62.00	$44.30	$88.55
Post Secondary Pass[4]	$70.85			$70.85

1. Adults 17-64
2. Youths 6-16, High School Students 17-21 with GoCard ID
3. 65+, Federal Government Blue Card or Transit ID required
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- Old tickets can be exchanged (with applicable cash difference) at the following outlets, Monday - Friday:

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Winnipeg Square Service Centre
SW Concourse Portage & Main
(8:15 am – 4:30 pm)

Winnipeg Transit Service Centre
Unit B-414 Osborne Street
(8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

For complete transit fare information visit winnipegtransit.com or call 311.

TRANSPORTATION

THE QUEST FOR RAPID TRANSIT

SEARCH LIVES ON FOR CONTRACTORS TO BUILD NEW MAJOR PATHWAYS

Michelle Bailey
For Metro Canada

The City of Winnipeg was first introduced to public transit in the form of horse cars in 1882. Fares cost 10 cents cash or 15 tickets for $1. In the winter, fares dropped to five cents cash per ride.

This time capsule item is a paper transit pass to represent how far the public transit system has evolved since those early days. In 2015, riders pay $2.60 to hop on one of the 585 buses that shuttle people every day from point A to point B.

Many buses within the fleet are customized in order to accommodate riders, such as low-floor easy-access buses. Winnipeg Transit has even started to experiment with electric buses and smartcards to eliminate the need for cash.

However, the fact remains that in 2015, Winnipeggers still rely on their vehicles to get around. Unlike many other metropolitan cities in Canada, the vast majority of commuters in Winnipeg are still reluctant to embrace the idea of using the public transportation system instead of driving their cars.

At least 362,303 passenger vehicles were registered in Winnipeg in 2015. That doesn't even include light trucks and motorcycles.

In order to encourage more citizens to use public transportation, decision-makers at the City of Winnipeg tackled a decades-old debate about how to bring efficiency and speed to the service and embarked on developing a Rapid Transit System using what's known as BRT (Bus Rapid Transit).

BRT combines the features of a rail system with the flexibility of a bus system to provide fast and convenient service that minimizes need to transfer to get you to where you are going.

Once the project was complete and Phase 1 (of six) of the rapid transit plan was being used, the next question was how to expand on it.

After much debate, Phase 2 was announced in early 2015, and details of the Southwest Transitway and Pembina Highway Underpass project were unveiled.

Through the P3 Canada Fund, the federal government promised to contribute up to $137.3 million to the Southwest Transitway (Stage 2) component of the project, while the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg would each contribute $225 million.

The project would include extending Winnipeg's BRT system by 7.6 kilometres, adding 10 transit stations, two park-and-ride facilities, two transitway bridges, an overpass, an underpass and a tunnel.

As this paper transit pass is inserted into the time capsule, ground has still not been broken.

The search continues to hire the companies that will construct this new path to transport people quickly and efficiently. Contracts are expected to be awarded in early 2016.

Once this next phase of rapid transit is complete, it is hoped that more Winnipeggers will ditch their cars and use public transit to get to where they need to go.

In order to encourage use of city public transportation, key decision-makers have been debating the best way to streamline — and speed up — service. The result: A Rapid Transit System using what's known as BRT (Bus Rapid Transit). The next phase of Rapid Transit is about to get underway, connecting Osborne Village to the University of Manitoba.
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA/ HANDOUT

INTO THE CAPSULE

Paper transit pass
Winnipeg is now investing billions into a new rapid-transit system with dedicated bus lanes that the city hopes will eventually become light rail. But are we too late?

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CITY'S WATERING HOLES DRYING UP

BAR AND CLUB SCENE

Live bands give way to piped music as chains move in

Michelle Bailey
For Metro | Winnipeg

It's Fall 2015, and when word broke that not one, but two long running-institutions in Winnipeg's bar and club scene were closing down for good, many patrons didn't know how to react to the news. Disbelief and profound sadness could describe it.

With the number of city watering holes closing their doors after numerous years of operation, such as the Osborne Village's "The Zoo" (after 35 years) and the "World famous Palomino Club," (after 27 years), mentioned earlier, where were people now going to gather to listen to live indie music or meet Mr. or Ms. Right?

Instead, the years leading up to the demise of these hangouts, and numerous others like them, saw a shift in where Winnipeggers would congregate to have beverages and socialize. More and more lounge-type bars run by chain operations were popping up. Music was piped in over speakers while several TVs would showcase sporting events and game highlights.

Perhaps two people in one of those newer establishments would get to know one another as they met in person for the first time, but that's after they had already become acquainted online through a dating app.

For those of you reading this in 2115, it will be interesting to see if Winnipeg is still inundated with chain-operated lounges and bars with little to no live music, or if people will be back to handing each other coasters with their contact info on them as they hit the dance floor.

INTO THE CAPSULE

A beaten-up bar coaster

Winnipeg is widely considered a musical mecca on the Prairies, and to lose two venues where several bands got their start will change the musical landscape in the River City. Will other venues take their place, or are we seeing a fundamental shift in how we consume live music and meet other people?

The Palamino Club is shutting its doors after the new year. CONTRIBUTED

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THE YEAR WE LED IN LARGESSE

MANITOBANS GAVE THE MOST

PHILANTHROPY

Will the economy drag down our spirit of generosity?

Michelle Bailey
For Metro | Winnipeg

The Keystone Province continues to live up to the "Friendly Manitoba" slogan that appears on its licence plate.

Based on numbers collected by Statistics Canada in 2013, Manitobans contributed more to charities on a per capita basis than any other province in the nation. Winnipeg was second only to Ottawa in the number of people donating on a per capita basis among Canadian cities.

So we've thrown into the time capsule a Canadian dollar, known as the loonie, which is currently hovering at around 70 cents US.

Not only are individuals stepping up to give their loonies to charitable organizations such as the United Way, Winnipeg Harvest food bank and Siloam Mission homeless shelter, but notable families who have deep pockets do their part too. Names like Asper, Richardson and Buhler can be seen on research facilities, educational centres and parks throughout Winnipeg, representing millions of loonies that have come forward in donations to better the community and augment government-funded projects.

But how long can Manitoba and Winnipeg hang on to this distinction? Will the families that have historically come forward with large cheques made out to charities pass on this practice of philanthropy to the next generation?

And how will people afford to keep on giving if they continue to ring up a ton of debt? Manitobans are among a large number of Canadians taking on more consumer debt. In Manitoba, the average consumer debt-load sits at about $21,500. This takes into account debt from credit cards, lines of credit and personal loans. And that doesn't even include money owed on mortgages, which means many Manitobans owe even more than that.

The traditional values of delayed gratification have been replaced with immediate gratification. Manitobans are living beyond their means, using their homes as ATMs by borrowing against them to make new purchases.

As a result, some are finding their financial situation is forcing them to become dependent on the charities they used to have loonies to give to.

Hopefully, by the time this capsule is opened in 2115, a future generation of affluent families will still be providing millions of loonies to contribute to the growth of Winnipeg and the province, and generous individuals will still have the means to keep Manitoba on the top of the list when it comes to being charitable.

Winnipeggers may soon have to pinch their proverbial pennies. Will local philanthropists step up? THINKSTOCK

INTO THE CAPSULE

A loonie

Rising household debt, skyrocketing house and food prices and a dropping dollar are putting pressure on Friendly Manitoba to live up to its tradition of helping others. Can philanthropists and ordinary citizens continue to give before they'll need charitable help themselves?

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MOLLUSKS FAR FROM HARMLESS

ZEBRA MUSSELS

Invasive lake creature can choke off all life around it

Michelle Bailey
For Metro | Winnipeg

What you are looking at in the time capsule below this article is a single zebra mussel that was collected from a sample of Lake Winnipeg water and bottled in 2015.

This little mollusk looks pretty harmless, doesn't it? Don't let it fool you. It's far from innocent.

Lake Winnipeg and other waterways in Manitoba are under attack from this tiny creature.

The invasive species, which has been in the Great Lakes for almost two decades and has spread throughout parts of the United States, was discovered for the first time in Manitoba in October 2013.

The province is still trying to figure out how to tackle this intrusive piece of nature.

Folks in the Ministry of Conservation thought they had the upper hand when they poured four infested harbours full of liquid potash in an effort to kill the creatures.

They even brought in zebra-mussel sniffing dogs in an effort to keep the mollusks from being transferred across the border.

The province thought it had the problem licked, but then had to declare defeat when more of the mussels appeared in Lake Winnipeg. The challenge continued.

With more than 80,000 boats in Manitoba every summer, it takes just one zebra mussel to infest an entire lake.

They cling to anything and everything. If they were to take serious hold of the waterways, those in the commercial fishing industry believe, zebra mussels would devastate Manitoba's $500-million commercial and recreational fishery.

Zebra mussels are notorious for colonizing and constricting the flow of water. Water treatment plants are most affected because the water intakes bring the microscopic free-swimming larvae directly into the facilities.

They can also have profound effects on the ecosystems they invade by reducing the amount of food available to other species.

Basically, they have a penchant for choking everything around them.

They also affect all classes of algae species, resulting in a shortage of food sources to native species of freshwater fish.

In a word, they are nasty. And they made their way to Manitoba without a passport.

This species was originally native to the lakes of southern Russia and found its way into water systems in countries all over the world, including Canada via shipping channels.

The Manitoba government has gone as far as considering fines for those who don't follow the rules and regulations as it pertains to proper cleaning of watercraft, to ensure zebra mussels are not hitching a ride into the province on their vessels.

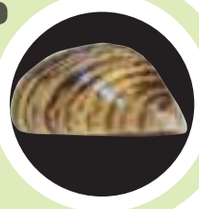
With luck, by 2115, when this time capsule is opened, the province will have eradicated this intruder.

Perhaps it can take money collected in fines and use it for conservation initiatives, to maintain and improve the beautiful lakes and rivers that make up the Manitoba landscape.

INTO THE CAPSULE

A ZEBRA MUSSEL

The province was stunned to learn that zebra mussels have made their way into Lake Winnipeg, which will change the ecology of the lake forever. Will we ever be able to eradicate this highly invasive species?



Pristine sand along Lake Winnipeg is threatened by zebra mussels. This species was originally native to the lakes of southern Russia and found its way into water systems in countries all over the world, including Canada.
THINKSTOCK

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BUDDING BROMANCE

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has had to prove he's a fighter many times over the years, but will he emerge victorious by the end of his first term? TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

POLITICS

'Sunny ways' leader brightens U.S. relations

Melissa Dunne
For Metro Canada

When Justin met Barack it was seen as the start of a beautiful bromance.

While former prime minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama always kept things professional, one got the sense their relationship was more a marriage of convenience than a meeting of the souls.

When Obama and newly elected Prime Minister Justin Trudeau held their first news conference in late November one felt like yelling out: "Get a room, already!"

The frosty relations between America and Canada were clearly heating up with Obama, 54, warmly joking that Trudeau would have to start dyeing his famous brunette mane soon before it started to grey like his own had over the course of his presidency.

In the weeks following the Liberal leader's victory over the Conservative incumbent, much real and virtual ink had been spilled about Trudeau's luxurious locks, his fit physique and beautiful brood. Like Obama early on in his presidency, there was an explosion of stories regarding his DILF-in-chief status. And like Obama, it will be Trudeau's job to get the media and the public to start gushing over his sharp mind instead of his chiselled arms.

He's done it before.

Over his lifetime, Trudeau's many naysayers have often portrayed him as a himbo born with a silver spoon in his mouth. Even glowing Vogue and The New York Times Magazine profiles printed shortly after his election victory both acknowledged his image for many years was that of the "feckless" son of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau.

But, the 44-year-old has proven to be a fighter many times over the years.

During the long 2015 election campaign, Harper tried to dismiss Trudeau as a silly scion who was "just not ready." But, just as he had done in his boxing match with Patrick Brazeau years before, the son of Pierre Trudeau went in as the underdog and emerged as the winner.

In early 2016, Obama was set to take his relationship with Trudeau to the next level by wining and dining him at a state dinner. For Canada's "sunny ways" leader, however, a possible dark cloud lurked on the horizon — the U.S. election. A year into his leadership, Trudeau will have to try to form a new bond with the new president of the United States.

As 2015 wound down it seemed the eventual winner was likely to be either life-long politician Hillary Clinton or the controversy-courting Donald Trump.

It's clear Trudeau will have to prove he can withstand the political punches round after round after round. Will he ultimately have his hand held up in the air in victory, or will he be holding his head in his hands in defeat at the end of his first term? Will he run for re-election and win again like his late father did? The future is not ours to see, but if fils is like père, Trudeau 2.0 will certainly continue to give us something worth watching in 2016 and beyond.

INTO THE CAPSULE

Photo of Trudeau meeting Obama

On Nov. 19, 2015 — after many years of polite, but distant relations — Canada's new prime minister ushered in what many hope will be an era of warmth between the U.S. and Canada as he met with the president for the first time.

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SEEDING A NEW SYSTEM OF POT SALES

MARIJUANA

Liberals to create task force for legalization

The federal Liberals promised to legalize recreational marijuana during the 2015 election.

In December, after they took power, they promised in the inaugural throne speech to "legalize, regulate and restrict access to marijuana" to keep it out of the hands of children while also denying criminals the financial profits.

The new government plans to remove possession of small amounts of marijuana from the Criminal Code and create new laws to more severely punish those who provide it to minors or drive while under its influence.

There are dozens of clinics or dispensaries springing up in cities across Canada that sell medicinal marijuana — mainly in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia — and there are referral-only clinics staffed with doctors who assess patients but don't sell pot. They give patients a prescription to take to a licensed marijuana producer.

The Liberals have promised marijuana revenue will go to addictions and mental health treatments. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised to create a task force with representatives from the three levels of government and, with input from experts in public health, substance abuse and policing, to help design a new system of marijuana sales and distribution.

Trudeau stressed the importance of listening to municipal partners, provinces and the medical marijuana industry, as well as drawing on best practices from around the world.

"We are going to get this right in a way that suits Canadians broadly, and specifically in their communities."

Trudeau also said any tax revenues from legal marijuana should go toward addiction treatment, mental health support and education programs — not general revenues.

"It was never about a money-maker," he said.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne recently said that provincially owned Liquor Control Board of Ontario stores were "very well-suited" to sell marijuana.

Wynne isn't the only one looking for a socially responsible way to retail marijuana. The British Columbia Government and Service Employees' Union and the B.C. Private Liquor Store Association joined forces to call for legal marijuana to be sold through their existing retail system, which includes about 200 private and 200 government-run stores.

BCGEU president Stephanie Smith said the union did not take a position on whether it supports the plan to legalize marijuana, "but we do believe that when this happens, it ought to be sold in the most socially responsible way possible, in an age-controlled environment with the strongest track record of checking identification."

Expectations are changing fast in Ontario, which only last week updated its liquor laws to allow the sale of six-packs of beer in selected grocery stores. Minutes after Wynne made the announcement, she was asked why grocers couldn't also sell pot.

"I don't know what the federal government is going to bring forward, but we will work with them to make sure there are parameters of social responsibility around marijuana."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INTO THE CAPSULE

A joint

For generations, recreation marijuana use was seen as, if not deviant, then at least criminal. The new Liberal government was elected, in part, on a promise to change that.

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The Trudeau government hopes to restore the scandal-plagued Senate to its intended role as an independent chamber of sober second thought. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SENATE REFORM ISN'T SO EASY

ANALYSIS

Unelected legislative body seems anachronistic

Gabriel Zarate
For Metro

The Canadian Senate is a funny thing. In a world where a government's power is considered legitimate through democratic elections, our appointed Senate seems anachronistic at best.

The Senate's unelected nature has turned it into a cesspool of partisan crony appointments by both Liberal and Conservative prime ministers.

This has not endeared it to Canadians in recent decades, nor have years of scandals among sitting senators.

Currently, the reputed king of scandalous senatorial behaviour is Mike Duffy, accused of filing tens of thousands of dollars of bogus expense claims, inappropriately awarding consulting contracts and accepting a bribe from then-Prime Minister Stephen Harper's chief of staff Nigel Wright to pay the Senate back when he was caught.

It doesn't have to be this way, and maybe by the time this time capsule is opened, it won't be.

For decades Canadians have talked about reforming or even abolishing the Senate.

An elected Senate with term limits was one of Harper's major pledges throughout his political career and, in the recent federal campaign, New Democratic Party leader Tom Mulcair vowed abolition should his party be elected.

WORDS FOR THE FUTURE

Under Justin Trudeau, the Senate will solicit appointments from the public

However, in 2014 the Supreme Court ruled that such major changes would not be easy.

A constitutional amendment would be necessary, and that would require approval of seven out of 10 provinces for Harper's reforms and all 10 provinces in the case of abolition.

Lest we forget, the last time Canadians were asked to amend the Constitution was in the Meech Lake Accord of 1987, which was resoundingly defeated in a referendum — despite its endorsement by all the federal party leaders. This was no doubt on Harper's mind when he abandoned Senate reform, especially considering his atrocious record working with provincial governments.

Current Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has moved toward reform in a less radical way, one that does not require Constitutional revision: by maintaining the appointed nature of Senators but (in theory) removing the partisan cronyism which has come to characterize the upper house.

As Opposition leader Trudeau expelled Liberal senators from his party's caucus, officially making them independent members.

Since his election as prime minister two Conservative Senators — Jacques Demers and John Wallace — quit their caucus in support of Trudeau's push for Senate non-partisanship.

Recently Trudeau announced that the Senate will solicit applications from the public to fill the Red Chamber with "exceptional" Canadians from various walks of life.

Instead of coming from the prime minister's office, recommendations for new Senators now will come from an arms-length, independent, five-member advisory board.

By the time this time capsule is opened, the Canadian Senate may look very different.

Or maybe it will look just the same.

INTO THE CAPSULE

A courtroom sketch of Mike Duffy

The Conservative senator, who claims he was strong-armed into unpalatable decisions by then-prime minister Stephen Harper and members of his inner circle, is still in court dealing with 31 charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery in relation to his Senate expense accounts.

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AIDING REFUGEES

Jillian Bell
For Metro

In 2015, Syria was in the midst of a crisis. An ongoing, years-long civil war, further complicated by the involvement of terrorist groups like the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, had left four million Syrians as refugees.

At the moment, there are a wide array of Canadian groups sponsoring refugees, and many more clamouring to raise money to help resettle the 25,000 Syrian refugees expected by early 2016.

Where the Stephen Harper government was once resistant to refugees, Canada's new administration has thrown open the doors, allowing Syrian refugees to experience all of the freedoms and privileges our nation has to offer.

Hopefully the outpouring of acceptance Canadians are offering to these newcomers will continue.

INTO THE CAPSULE

Trudeau's promise

The Liberals made (mostly) good on a campaign promise to facilitate the sponsorship and settlement of 25,000 Syrians.

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"STRESS MANAGEMENT EXPERTS"

DONALD TRUMP'S CLOWNING GLORY

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

From silly punchline to contender

Melissa Dunne
For Metro

In the dog days of Summer 2015 Donald Trump's wrinkled, jowly, aged-spotted head, adorned with his infamous comb-over, landed on the cover of Time magazine. In bold white font were three words: "Deal with it."

Soon after his face and ridiculous hairdo landed on the cover of Rolling Stone. Even The New York Times Magazine put him on their front, albeit opting for a cartoon likeness of his visage on a balloon floating upwards.

While print media's influence was dwindling in the face of stiff competition from online news sites, landing the cover of a glossy magazine still could (and clearly did) inflate a person's ego and influence in 2015. Trump didn't appear to mind that the articles inside those magazines' pages were not flattering as the cover stories only seemed to prove an old adage the once-reality television star understood all too well: All publicity is good publicity.

Earlier, The Huffington Post editors called out Trump's circus act deeming it a "sideshow" that was only worthy of the fluffy entertainment pages, not the serious politics section of the liberal-leaning website.

Despite reams of negative press, The Donald still went from being a silly punchline when he first threw his hat in the ring in June to a serious contender for the job of president of the United States as 2015 wound down. By late December, the billionaire blowhard turned politico had pulled off what would have sounded like a bad joke just a year earlier.

Even less funny was how the businessman pulled off such a feat. He managed to land high-profile covers and the top spot in polls for GOP leader by tapping into an undercurrent of racism still flowing in America.

INTO THE CAPSULE

A Trump doll

Once seen as a joke candidate, by the end of 2015 the billionaire reality-TV star had became the front-runner for the Republican nomination. This did not bode well for the political future.

Donald Trump addresses supporters at a campaign rally in Michigan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How to prevent dryer fires in your home

If your clothing is taking longer to dry or if the air isn't blowing properly out of the vent, then your dryer needs maintenance.

Did you know that clothing dryers are prone to lint build up – and that build up can cause a fire? Your dryer needs regular, annual maintenance to prevent this from happening.

Just like a vacuum cleaner, the build up and debris in a dryer needs to be periodically cleaned out to keep it in peak performance, or you risk fire, increase your electricity costs and end up with lint all over your clothing.

But unlike a vacuum cleaner, this isn't so easy to do. The exhaust hood, transition hose and the metal ducts all need to be inspected, taken apart, cleaned and put back together. Thankfully, this doesn't have to be a chore, thanks to the Dryer Vent Doctor!

Dryer Vent Doctor owner Moe Eslam says not only can his team inspect and clean out your dryer of lint and debris, but can replace dangerous plastic and tin foil transition hoses that increase your risk of fire with a dryer flex hose that is sold in the US and only available in Winnipeg through Dryer Vent Doctor.

Ensure your family's safety this holiday season, avoid the hidden danger of dryer vent lint build up and call Dryer Vent Doctor today at 204-396-4544.

SHUTTERSTOCK

An Iraqi man disembarks from a dinghy after his trip with other migrants from the Turkish coast to the Greek island of Lesbos. European Union leaders have set a six-month deadline for deciding whether to push ahead with plans for a border guard agency that could deploy to member states unable or unwilling to manage their borders as thousands of migrants continue to arrive in Europe daily.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REFUGEE CRISIS

PLAYING BY OLD RULES IS ABSURD

DISSONANCE BETWEEN DUBLIN AGREEMENT AND SITUATION ON THE GROUND ALMOST UGLY

EMINA GAMULIN
Metro

While there are many objects that could have spoken to the perilous journey as many as a million people made to seek a better life in Europe in 2015 — or a life, period — it is multinational indentured agreements that best illustrate the obstacles they faced to entering the West.

For this reason we've enclosed all 29 pages of the Dublin Regulation (also known as the Dublin Regulation III, Regulation No. 604/2013; previously the Dublin II Regulation and Dublin Convention) in the time capsule.

Dublin decreed that EU countries that served as entry points for would-be refugees were responsible for assessing their asylum claims. The country where the asylum seeker first applied was responsible for either accepting or rejecting the claim, and the seeker was not allowed to start the process over in another jurisdiction.

Asylum seeking is nothing new, but something felt unprecedented in what we saw in 2015. People from all over risked their lives on journeys in rubber boats across the Mediterranean, predominantly arriving on Greek shores and then travelling by land in record numbers through the Balkans.

In December, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) announced 2015 was set to break the all-time record for displaced people.

The response in Europe was disappointing. Some countries built fences (Hungary, Slovenia), others restricted passage to people from just a handful of countries (Serbia, Croatia). and even rich, generous Germany, threatened legal action against countries ignoring their quotas.

Dublin wasn't all bad. The first few pages concerning the Geneva Convention, human rights protections and talk of solidarity were promising, but the obstructive role it played in getting people from point A to point B and unfair onus it put on entry-point countries rendered much this high-minded talk moot.

Dublin III can remind us of the tragic absurdity of playing by rules that were written for yesterday's world. The dissonance between this carefully crafted agreement and the situation on the ground is almost ugly.

The EU looked at a million asylum claims in 2015 and expected to see triple that over the next year. What's most needed are things that are simple to understand: Brains, heart, guts. I trust that any people who manage to find this capsule in 2045 figured that out.

INTO THE CAPSULE

Dublin III Wikipedia page
2015 saw a record number of displaced people migrating to Europe. The EU agreement known as Dublin III is a relic that can serve as a reminder of what happens when we're forced to help others with tools that don't work.

A BREATH OF FRESH HEIR

FACEBOOK

Famous duo quash common perceptions of Millennials

Melissa Dunne
For Metro Canada

In 2015, Paris Hilton was still contributing little to the world, unless you count hosting DJ gigs in Ibiza and Vegas as giving back, that is.

The blonde heiress to the Hilton Hotel fortune was perhaps best known for parlaying her sex tape into fleeting reality-show fame in the early '00s.

History is littered with heirs and heiresses, like the 34-year-old Hilton, who are silly dilettantes that do nothing to make the world a better place. Her contemporaries, Mark Zuckerberg, 31, and his wife Dr. Priscilla Chan, 30, clearly do not want their baby daughter Max turning into Generation Z's Paris Hilton. In December, the influential couple became the latest one-per-centers to pledge to give away the majority of their vast fortune.

In typical Millennial fashion at the time, Zuckerberg and Chan posted a cute photo of them gazing at their first-born child on the popular social networking website, Facebook. But, while many Millennials were still paying off their student loans and wondering how they would ever afford to buy a house, the founder of Facebook and his pediatrician wife made a pledge few from their generation could match. In an open letter they let little Max and the world know they were going to give away 99 per cent of their Facebook shares (about $45 billion U.S.) during their lifetimes.

According to a Forbes article, it's often said of wealthy American business families: "The first generation makes it, the second generation spends it, and the third generation blows it."

If Chan and Zuckerberg really do give away most of the money they've made, as promised, there will still be a fair amount of dough for Max (and any future heirs) to spend/blow. Still, such a young and powerful couple pledging their fortune not to their heirs, but to society, so early in their lives is a significant sea change.

Back in 2010 billionaire businessmen Warren Buffett and Bill Gates officially started the Giving Pledge in a bid to get wealthy people and their families to give away at least 50 per cent of their wealth to philanthropic or charitable causes during their lifetimes, or in their wills.

At that time many raised their eyebrows and were openly skeptical that one-per-centers would willingly give away their money to help the 99 per cent. The naysayers were wrong.

More than 100 of the world's wealthiest people and families have officially made the Giving Pledge.

Zuckerberg will hopefully influence more rich Millennial parents to pause before blindly passing down wealth to those that don't necessarily need or deserve it.

Max Chan Zuckerberg is held by her parents, Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan Zuckerberg.
MARK ZUCKERBERG VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTO THE CAPSULE

Printout of Zuckerberg's letter

Wealthy parents tend to hoard their riches to pass down to their children. Not Mark Zuckerberg. In celebration of their first child, Max, the co-founder of Facebook and his wife committed to give away 99 per cent of Facebook shares to charitable purposes.

INTO THE CAPSULE

An old-timey cab

Despite the angry protestations of cab drivers, it's increasingly clear the taxi industry isn't going to beat Uber.

UBER TAKING OFF

While people looking for cheap transportation are embracing the Uber app, the taxi industry is not.

As the battle is waged on the streets and in council meeting rooms, it's increasingly clear the sharing economy is winning. Taxi companies are even beginning to redesign their apps.

There may come a time when we don't look to conventional businesses to provide us with our services. Maybe in a few years we'll have several app-based transportation companies.

SARAH KESTER/FOR METRO

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news | Monday, December 28, 2015 | THE TIME CAPSULE EDITION

WAIT. SHOULD THIS NEWSPAPER ITSELF BE IN A TIME CAPSULE?

With so much free information available online, the survival of print media is in doubt. We tapped two veteran newsmen for their views on the future of news.

> **I think newspaper readership is strongest among people who are soon going to be dead.**

John Gordon Miller

Author, Yesterday's News: Why Canada's Daily Newspapers are Failing Us

Newspapers are built on a business model that's no longer sustainable. It's not that some people don't prefer newspapers. People who work for them think they're irreplaceable. It's that they can't afford to print and distribute them. A large number of newspapers have failed in Canada and the U.S. I expect that to continue and accelerate. I think there will always be a New York Times print newspaper. But for a Canadian newspaper in any big city, I'd say expecting it to survive 25 years would be optimistic.

There are two problems: Declining readership and declining advertising. When the Internet came along, newspapers really underestimated it. If they all got together, they could have become the biggest classified advertiser on the Internet. But they let it go, and the classifieds that used to be 20 or 30 pages are now one or two. It's all online.

I think newspaper readership is strongest among people who are soon going to be dead. In the next 20 or 25 years, readership is going into the ground. Literally.

Where young people go for their information has been revolutionized by the Internet. They're not going to suddenly develop a newspaper habit. I don't think the newspapers that have migrated to the web are in tune enough with younger readers. So the future of news is really in specialized websites like iPolitics. Among younger people it's "Why should I trust some old white guy to filter my news for me?

Something very important will be lost. You have to tell the web what you're looking for. But when you're reading the paper, you can turn the page and see something you never thought of being interested in.

We've already seen steps towards newspapers only existing online or printing once a week — those are no longer daily newspapers.

If newspapers continue, they will be free ones like Metro. People always gravitate to something that's free.

Jim Poling

Managing Editor, the Hamilton Spectator

Print news is more responsive, easily accessible and tactile. Opening a newspaper is like smelling fresh air. You turn the page and all your senses come alive. It's new fount of knowledge with every page turned.

Print is part of us. If all somebody did was read one newspaper front to back every day, they'd be the smartest person in the room.

A newspaper has no "Sorry, this browser's out of date," and no message saying "Sorry, this plug-in's not working." I know when I turn a page, I get a guaranteed, instant surprise.

The majority of the information people want to read is produced in newsrooms. All that good content you read on the Internet is stolen and ripped off and repurposed by other entities. I tell young journalists, don't worry about the platform. Chase the content. Produce good information, and the rest will take care of itself.

Print news has a foreseeable shelf life. Is it declining? Perhaps parts of it are. What's really going on is an advertising change. If the advertising model was as robust as it was 20 years ago, we wouldn't be having this discussion.

I hope people want to pay for news. We provide an incredible and important service in addition to entertainment and comfort and knowledge.

The problem is that we've raised a generation of people who have been told they don't have to pay for their media in any form. Our sin, as newspapers, was coming late to that party. The web came along and we threw all our content on it. It was like giving everybody free beer. And after three free beers we said, "Hey, now you've got to pay for your beer." I don't think so.

Many people (in the news business) are struggling. There's no doubt we're going through some structural change. But people will get to a point where they do see value in what the news industry produces. And at least some people will pay for that.

> **The majority of the content people want is made in newsrooms. Produce good information, and the rest will take care of itself.**

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Into the vault goes the offhand, off-colour comment

Goodbye to the offhand comment, the minor infraction and the ill-conceived joke. We're witnessing the end of the small and inconsequential act.

Consider the fake indigenous headdress beloved by white Halloweeners. In it goes to Metro's time capsule, because you can't get away with it — or anything — anymore.

In our hyper-monitored, hyper-public, hyper-politically correct and hyper-critical world, anything you say or do could potentially go viral. Low-level racism is highlighted, and condemned in a way previously reserved for more overt discrimination. If you dare express a less than perfectly progressive (in the eyes of God knows who) opinion, your words could screw you.

Halloween is the perfect example, and nowhere better made this year than at Yale. Students railed against a teacher who tried to advocate for nuance in costume condemnation, instead of top-down rules for what to wear. The lecturer only had to write one email, and watch the New Yorker, the Atlantic, and the New York Times dissect her words, and then, later, report on her resignation.

The controversy became, as many now do, wrapped up in the idea of safe spaces, a new tool being used to silence some voices, in the service of the new acceptable norms.

Small transgressions are increasingly public. Post a photo on Facebook, or have a friend post a photo on Facebook, and who knows where it might end up. That image of you posing disrespectfully at a national memorial gets uploaded and the next thing you know, your moment of silliness is being recounted as prime example of how online rage can ruin your life, in a book called So You've Been Publicly Shamed.

Drunken antics during a live TV broadcast (a la the FHRITP guys), could echo through social media and cost your job, reputation, or self-respect.

On one hand, it's a very good thing to stop reducing whole cultures to imitations of Pocahontas. The small ripples of insensitivity rest on the surface of a much deeper sea of exploitation, inequality and racism we have yet to solve.

But mistakes of the insensitive or racist variety are inevitably made by otherwise decent people — and the constant policing of opinions does not mean unsavoury ones disappear. They only go into hiding, until they find a more acceptable avenue of expression. Like, say, a presidential candidate. Or a migration crisis that can easily be twisted to buoy xenophobia.

Either way, I don't think we can win a fight against the rise of perpetually threatening consequences to everything you say or do. We must now live carefully, and let live.

metro
Your essential daily news

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Cathrin Bradbury

VICE PRESIDENT & GROUP PUBLISHER METRO WESTERN CANADA
Steve Shrout

MANAGING EDITOR WINNIPEG
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ADVERTISER INQUIRIES
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THE TIME CAPSULE EDITION

THE YEAR WE REALLY DID BREAK

THE GENDER BARRIER

GENDER

When it came to transgender rights, 2015 was a game-changer

Devon Scoble
For Metro Canada

Eddie Redmayne was nominated for a 2016 Golden Globe for his role in The Danish Girl. HANDOUT

Imagine a world divided by strict gender codes, where men and women are born into their socially mandated roles and the binary is policed by gendered pronouns — 'he' and 'she' for some instead of 'they' for all. Imagine a world where sex-specific washrooms are the norm, where trans individuals face harassment just for being themselves.

In the future, this will sound ridiculous, but in 2015, it's reality.

Change will come, perhaps sporadically. This year The New York Times started using the gender-neutral honorific Mx. for individuals who neither identify as male or female, but the move has been largely ignored outside LGBTQ and copyediting circles.

In 2015, The Washington Post also officially accepted 'they' as a singular pronoun.

But some cultural shifts happen faster than we can describe them, and while debates over honorifics and pronouns have failed to capture public interest, transgender issues were front and centre this year when Bruce Jenner became her true self: Caitlyn, a beautiful, media-savvy woman.

By no means the first trans spokesperson, Jenner was the most prominent and her transition sparked an important social conversation.

Trans stories like Jenner's received unprecedented media coverage in 2015. Actor Jeffrey Tambor won a Golden Globe for portraying a trans woman on the television show Transparent, and as the year closed, Eddie Redmayne was nominated for a 2016 Golden Globe for his role in The Danish Girl.

In the film, Redmayne played Lili Elbe, one of the first people to undergo sex reassignment surgery. And Laverne Cox, who played transgender character Sophia Burset on the prison drama Orange Is the New Black, won a Daytime Emmy for her documentary Laverne Cox Presents: The T Word.

These awards and nominations helped promote trans stories, but tellingly, only one of the three actors — Cox — was actually transgender.

Despite the positive trans coverage, the real world wasn't always easy for trans individuals.

In February 2015, Theron Meyer, a 20-year-old Simon Fraser University student who identified as trans feminine, told Metro of the humiliations she faced having to choose between the men's and women's washroom.

"They look at me, they exit the washroom and then look at me again to make sure what my gender is," said Meyer. "That's very ostracizing. I think a lot of people don't experience that, and don't understand the degree to which that is harmful to my livelihood and to other trans people's livelihood."

INTO THE CAPSULE

Gender neutral bathroom sign

Transgender rights were in the spotlight in 2015; from TV shows and movies like Transparent, Orange is the New Black and The Danish Girl, to Caitlyn Jenner's sit-down interview with Diane Sawyer and Aydian Dowling almost winning Men's Health 2015's Ultimate Guy Search. But for all the glitz, it was a simple sign — seen in everyday life — that symbolized the change most of all.

ALTERNATE SUBMISSIONS

3 TRANSGENDER TRAILBLAZERS OF 2015

Harriette Cunningham

Cunningham's birth certificate read male, but Cunningham never doubted it was wrong. In 2015, the 12-year-old from Comox Valley, B.C. was fighting to have gender designations removed from official documents in British Columbia.

Aydian Dowling

Dowling didn't win the Men's Health 2015 "Ultimate Guy Search," but the trans activist, model and bodybuilder did win the magazine's readers' poll, raising trans awareness — and pulses — around the world.

Caitlyn Jenner

Criticized for her wealth, privilege and surprisingly traditional politics, Jenner was still instrumental in bringing transgender issues to a larger audience. In 2015, Metro columnist Emma Teitel called her "a walking, collagen-injected catch-22... damned for speaking out and damned for keeping quiet; damned for being an inferior activist and damned for winning awards based on her activism."

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TRANSIT TUESDAY
Weekly Transit News Update

HOLIDAY SEASON TRANSIT SERVICE
Winnipeg Transit will be operating on a Sunday schedule on Friday, January 1. For route and schedule information, visit Winnipeg Transit or contact 311.

TAKE A FREE RIDE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE!
Celebrate safely! Let Winnipeg Transit be your designated driver this New Year's Eve. Starting at 7:00 pm, ride Winnipeg Transit for FREE until end of service (approximately 1:35am). Over 15,000 people took advantage of the free service last year. For route and schedule information, visit winnipegtransit.com or call 311.

Take a Free Ride on New Year's Eve is sponsored by Manitoba Public Insurance. As a road safety leader in the province, Manitoba Public Insurance is committed to reducing alcohol-related collisions, deaths and injuries.

NEW TRANSIT FARES JANUARY 1
Starting January 1st, 2016, Full and Handi-Transit cash fares will be $2.65. Youth and Senior cash fares will be $2.15. New rates for passes and tickets will also be in effect January 1.

Winnipeg Transit will continue to offer lower fares for seniors, qualifying students and Post-Secondary students.

Current transit fares are in effect until December 31, 2015 and 2015 bus tickets (plus applicable cash difference) will be accepted until March 31, 2016. For more fare information visit winnipegtransit.com or contact 311.

WE OFFER REQUEST STOP SERVICE AFTER 7 PM!
For your safety and convenience, Winnipeg Transit offers Request Stop service which allows riders to get off the bus between regular stops. This service is available from 7 p.m. until the end of service. Just politely inform your operator at least one stop ahead of the requested stop – then exit at the front door only. Please keep in mind, the operator might not be able to accommodate your request due to road safety concerns.

DID YOU LOSE OR FIND SOMETHING ON THE BUS?
Call 311 or visit our Lost Property Office at Winnipeg Transit's Downtown Service Centre located in Winnipeg Square. For more information, visit winnipegtransit.com or contact 311.

LAST NUDE PLAYBOY

PAPER PORN

Readers really will buy mag for articles now

Brian Gasparek
For Metro Canada

Marilyn Monroe on the December 1953 debut issue of the gentleman's magazine. HANDOUT

WORDS FOR THE FUTURE

This fall, Playboy declared that it was officially out of the nudie game.

The fleshy, vixen-graced cover of the Jan/Feb 2016 edition of Playbook is the very last issue of the magazine to ever feature a naked woman in its pages. And that last naked woman happens to be the most popular naked woman in the history of printed pornography.

It may be mind-boggling to think we lived in an age where our carnal urge to look at sex and nudity couldn't be satisfied by the click of a mouse or a tap of a tablet at any time during the day. Prior to the endless assortment of free porn online, one of the only ways that the consumers of yesteryears could get their hands on pornography was to buy it in magazine form at convenience stores or through snail-mail subscriptions. How weird is it that porn once cost money and you had to exert some effort to get it?

The godfather of porno mags was Playboy. Dating back to 1953, Playboy was the first publication of its kind to release a monthly magazine filled with naked women, sandwiched between a variety of articles that men would swear up and down was their reason for buying it.

Up until the end of this year, Playboy was the marquee porno mag to satisfy all skin-gawking urges. It maintained a level of class and quality (for porn) over its copycat competition, like Penthouse. At its peak point of success, Playboy had 5.6 million monthly readers... but free internet porn killed its reign.

The high-speed revolution is responsible for bringing us the wealth of information — and instantly accessible porno — that we're familiar with today.

Streaming sites and instant downloads have squashed the need for anybody to ever spend money on a magazine full of naked women again. Why would we?

This fall, Playboy waved its white flag and declared that it was officially out of the nudie game. It announced that starting in 2016, the magazine would focus on quality written content to win over new readers. But not before this one last historic naked issue.

For its final cover girl, Playboy paid tribute to its most iconic nude model of all time, Canadian actress Pamela Anderson. Anderson helped make the magazine a gargantuan success in four different decades, allowing it to be the official outlet to share her once highly desired body with the world.

She appeared naked in Playboy a record-setting 15 times, 14 of which she also graced the cover. But those days are now gone forever.

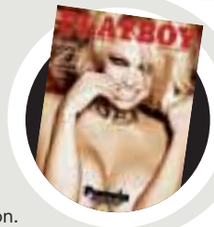
We thought it was important to share this naked artifact in our time capsule because it not only represents how 2015 marked the end of Playboy's reign as the godfather of porn, it also witnessed the demise of an archaic medium in the skin industry.

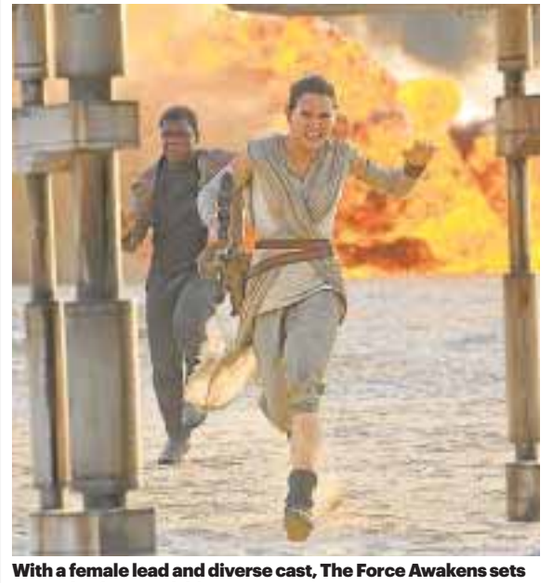
So long porno-Playboy!

INTO THE CAPSULE

Jan/Feb 2016 Playboy Magazine

The magazine that helped usher in the sexual revolution in the 1950s and '60s by bringing nudity into living rooms, announced in 2015 that it will no longer run photos of completely naked women. Released on Dec. 1, 2015, this final edition featured Canadian actress Pamela Anderson.

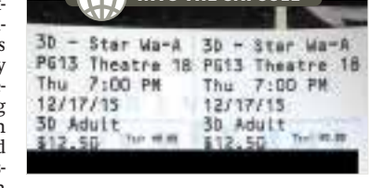



With a female lead and diverse cast, The Force Awakens sets new rules for smash hits. HANDOUT

STAR WARS

Blockbuster more than moneymaker

INTO THE CAPSULE



The much anticipated seventh installment of the star wars trilogy blasted its way into theatres in December 2015, setting box office records in Canada and around the world. Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures Canada said the newest movie in the epic space drama reached $18.6 million in ticket during its opening weekend.

Studio estimates on Dec. 20, 2015, suggested the film brought in a galactic $238 million over the weekend, making it the biggest North American debut of all time, and destroy the previous opening record set by Jurassic World, which drew $208.8 million in the summer of 2015.

What's more, some were suggesting the film, directed by J.J. Abram, would usher a change in the way blockbuster movies are cast in Hollywood, because of Star Wars female lead and the diversity of its cast.

METRO/CANADIAN PRESS

GOOD RIDDANCE, CABLE BILLS

CRTC

'Pick and pay' is the new way to watch television

Brian Gasparek
For Metro Canada

As we get closer to a future that features every TV show, movie or special that we're interested in watching being instantly accessible on cheap streaming services like Netflix, iTunes, Amazon and Shomi, it's baffling to think about the way we've been forced to consume television for all of these years, and the costs we've been charged for it.

Until 2015, we've been watching TV by renting digital cable boxes and ordering expensive channel packages through one of a few giant Canadian cable providers. These providers have had complete control over the package costs and what channels are included in each of them.

Although the providers have been wise to the specific channels that we love to watch the most, they haven't let us pay for just those alone. Instead, they've taken our beloved channels, combined them with a bunch of less desirable ones, and have been making us pay a bundled rate for everything together.

If we don't buy the bundle, we can't have the channels.

The worst part is that several of our favourite channels have been featured in separate bundles and, if we want access, we have to buy them all.

Many of us have been paying for more than 500 channels in our homes, when we really watch only a dozen of them regularly.

But thanks to our federal broadcast regulator, the CRTC, the end of this ridiculousness was announced this year.

After fielding endless complaints from disgruntled couch potatoes who were sick of paying for unwanted content, as well as becoming aware of the popularity of cheaper TV options like online streaming, the CRTC laid the smackdown on our cable providers' monopoly this past spring.

The CRTC told our providers that starting in 2016, consumers will be given the right to "pick and pay" for only the channels that we actually want to watch.

Once we've purchased a cheap, price-regulated basic cable package from the providers, we will be able to pay for channels individually, like a digital à la carte menu. The old channel bundles will still be an option, but only if we feel like shelling out for them. It's a truly glorious time, from the consumer's perspective.

We chose to include this cable bill inside our time capsule because it represents how 2015 finally changed the archaic Canadian cable industry as well as the cost of TV watching forever.

In the past people would pay for 500 channels but watch only a few. This will no longer be the case. ISTOCK

INTO THE CAPSULE

A cable bill

This year, the CRTC decided that Canadian consumers will no longer have to pay for expensive traditional cable packages and will now have the right to "pick and pay" for only the individual channels that they want to purchase, beginning in 2016.

ALTERNATIVE SPECIMEN

Coaxial Cable

A growing number of Canadians were ditching their traditional television subscriptions, according to a CBC research study. The May 2015 report said more than half of Canadians currently without cable television have "cut the cord."

Why important

"With the prevalence of TV content on the Internet and Netflix, Canadians are seeing less need to have a TV subscription," the report said. Sixteen per cent of Canadians don't pay for a traditional TV service, up from 12 per cent three years ago, the report said. "We consider it a big jump," said Mark Allen, senior director of corporate research at CBC/Radio-Canada in Ottawa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LANGUAGE

Today's texts: Glossary for aliens and anthropologists

Every year, new words and phrases creep into our lexicon and while some stick around, many fade from everyday use, becoming anachronistic relics occasionally tossed around by an aging uncle trying to hold onto his high school football glory days.

Here, we preserve the words and phrases of 2015 as a guide for future anthropologists attempting to decipher reddits, Facebook posts and tweets.

Because it's 2015: Credited to Justin Trudeau, progressive Prime Minister and moonlighting Vogue model. Used as a retort to people who question the reasons for mandated gender and racial equality in cabinet appointments.

Netflix and chill: People of the future who don't know what Netflix is: It's a ubiquitous video streaming service that ushered in the demise of brick and mortar video stores. When put together with 'and chill,' it becomes a polite guise for 'hey come over to my house so we can have sex.'

On fleek: It could be argued 'on fleek' is a phrase of 2014, but people of Instagram have spent most of 2015 trying to move the word to IRL. Can we just accept it's not happening and move on? Oh yes, the definition: It's the equivalent of 'on point' — specifically in the beauty realm — most likely used to describe eyebrows. As in "eyebrows on fleek."

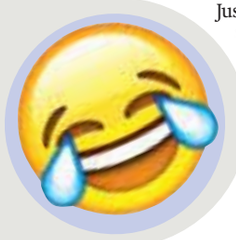
Yaaas: A substitution word for 'yes' just won't do to convey your excitement about a person, place or thing. Yaaas first appeared on the radar two years ago in a video clip from the Instagram account of Johnny Versayce as he used it to shout his approval to one fierce looking Lady Gaga as she strutted down a red carpet. It's now used across the internet to show excited approval.

LIZ BROWN/METRO CANADA

INTO THE CAPSULE

"Face with tears of joy" emoji

For the first time, the Oxford Dictionary's Word of the Year in 2015 was not a word, but an emoji instead. Oxford University Press worked with mobile technology business SwiftKey to select the most popular emoji used around the world in 2015. AFP



TIME CAPSULE

Artifact: Dulse — the seaweed that tastes exactly like bacon.

Why it belongs here: Researchers at Oregon State University had your back in 2015, developing a strain of dulse that tastes like bacon when cooked. "There hasn't been a lot of interest in using it in a fresh form," lead researcher Chris Langdon said. "When you fry it... it tastes like bacon."

AFP

THE LAST DAYS OF LIVING LARGE

LIVING

Detached homes face extinction

Devon Scoble
For Metro Canada

Dec 26, 2015, 8 p.m.: The Lees, a typical Canadian family, are relaxing in their living room. Here's mom, Jennifer, aged 46, comfy in yoga pants and a loose cardigan, reading a magazine made with slick sheets of glossy paper. There's dad, Christopher, 45 years old, beard shot with grey, belly gently straining the buttons of his soft plaid shirt. He grips a plastic cylinder covered with buttons; every so often his thumb jabs one, changing the images on the flatscreen across the room.

Emily, their 13-year-old daughter sits on an ottoman, leggings tucked beneath her, manicured fingers tapping her smartphone. Occasionally she directs the phone's camera towards her face, pushes her lips out like a duck's beak and angles her chin for a leaner profile. Her efforts to capture the perfect selfie are continually threatened by her younger brother, Ethan, 10, who will sacrifice points on his iPad game if it means annoying his sister with a choice photobomb.

It's a holiday, and this is family time. Swaths of empty space stretch between each Lee in this 300-square-foot room designed for the sole purpose of media consumption, but they are comfortable. At this moment, they have no idea theirs will be the last generation to inhabit such vast living spaces, and little sense of the consequences.

They understand the financial costs, of course. Rising real estate prices are a hot topic in 2015, and Jen and Chris worry their children will never afford homes of their own. Occupy, COP21, KonMari, Precarity Protests: these things are happening around them, or about to happen. The portrait of their era is taking shape, but the paint's still wet and it's hard to see the whole picture.

They are both right and wrong about the kids. Emily and Ethan won't buy houses like the one they grew up in, but they will have homes, albeit much smaller ones. Early models are already popping up: they call them tiny homes, micro-condos and laneway houses. Critics worry their construction will force the needy into cramped and dangerous domiciles; early adopters praise their efficient and environmentally responsible design. In 2015, they are pet projects for environmentalists, urban design enthusiasts and off-the-grid types. The social forces that will make them necessary are still developing; the advances that will make them truly comfortable await invention.

For now, 300 square feet of living room feels reasonable, and the Lees are managing just fine. Jennifer's magazine brims with tips on achieving work-life balance, an obsession of the time. One article suggests transparent storage bins for excess goods; another describes the supplies she'll need to stock a personal yoga room.

In the corner, a plastic Christmas tree sparkles with LED lights (Chris still can't get over how cool they are compared to the hot electric bulbs of his youth). At its base a pile of freshly opened presents awaits its fate. Jen sets the magazine down, picks up her phone, and begins tapping out four related lists: Keep, Sell, Return and Donate.

Over the ensuing days, weeks and years, the Lees will spend countless hours buying, returning, cleaning, organizing and re-organizing their things; despite the enormity of their home, they will each, at some point, complain that it is too small.

WORDS FOR THE FUTURE

"Theirs will be the last generation to inhabit such vast living spaces."

This rendering shows the type of micro suites Reliance Properties is proposing for a project in Vancouver. RELIANCE PROPERTIES HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

INTO THE CAPSULE

A single-family, detached home

In 2015, Metro published dozens of stories on a growing trend: shrinking homes. Micro condos, laneway houses and tiny homes were not the norm in 2015 — an October story estimated only one per cent of new homes measured less than 1,000 square feet. But rising real estate costs, urban land shortages (particularly in Vancouver) and a push towards sustainable building practices added interest and urgency to these stories as Canadians began seriously considering a downsized future.

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THE TIME CAPSULE EDITION
Monday, December 28, 2015

AFTER YEARS OF FUTILITY

BLUE JAYS BRING IT HOME

BASEBALL

Team boasts major-league best 891 runs

Vincent Man
Metro | Toronto

The big, ugly monkey that had made its home on the back of the Toronto Blue Jays for the last 22 years has vanished.

And the team's punishing bats can be thanked for that.

Well aware that it had the dubious distinction of the team with the longest absence from the playoffs, the franchise desperately searched for a way in for the first time since 1993.

In reality, the Blue Jays' magical 2015 season began the previous November. First, general manager Alex Anthopoulos paid above market value to sign catcher Russell Martin. He followed that up by dealing fan favourite Brett Lawrie and acquiring all-star third baseman Josh Donaldson from the Oakland Athletics – a swap that signalled he had his eyes squarely on the post-season.

Anthopoulos was not done there, however. With the team not quite over the hump, the GM orchestrated a number of game-changing trades in July. In the days leading up to the trade deadline, the team acquired slugging shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, veteran reliever LaTroy Hawkins, speedy outfield Ben Revere, setup man Mark Lowe and, the pièce de résistance, former Cy Young award-winner David Price.

The Blue Jays cleared their farm system of their prized pitching prospects but they also pieced together an all-star cast.

Sensing the shift from playing for the future to playing for today, fans began to support the Jays in full force. Rogers Centre, which had seemingly been only half full since the team's glory years, instantly boasted sold-out crowds. And paying customers were not disappointed.

The Jays, who were hovering around the .500 mark at the time of the blockbusters, quickly climbed the standings with opposing pitching staffs left licking their wounds. The batting lineup anchored by Donaldson, Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion finished the season with a major-league best 891 runs.

Jays fever took a hold of fans as the team advanced to the playoffs for the first time since 1993. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto's pitching also held its own. Price went 9-1, while starter Marco Estrada (13-8, 3.13 ERA) and 20-year-old closer Roberto Osuna (20 saves) emerged as key arms.

The Jays won the AL East with a 93-69 record and defeated the Texas Rangers in the ALDS – but not before an epic comeback. They lost the first two games in the series, and then forced a deciding fifth game after a pair of their own wins.

The emotionally-charged Game 5 saw the Jays trail 3-2 in the seventh inning when Bautista belted a three-run home run, followed by a bat flip of the tape-measure variety. They won the game 6-3.

The Blue Jays ran out of magic in the ALCS when they were beaten in six games by the Kansas City Royals, the eventual World Series champs.

It could be argued the Jays are in position to repeat their winning ways in 2016 with many key players expected to return. At the very least, they will have a large following – both new and old.

With everyone invested in this team having experienced playoff baseball, failure is no longer an option and winning a championship is surely the next step in the master plan.

INTO THE CAPSULE

Jose Bautista's bat

After the Jays slugging right-fielder hit his instantly iconic home run in Game 5 of the 2015 ALDS, he tossed his bat with a mixture of fury and pure joy. The "bat flip" was the moment that underscored 2015, the year the Jays began to act like winners.

OFF-SEASON MOVES

- Mark Shapiro was hired to replace the retiring Paul Beeston as the team's president and CEO.
- Soon after, Anthopoulos declined a contract offer to stay on as GM. The Jays eventually hired Ross Atkins.
- The Boston Red Sox signed David Price to a seven-year, $217-million deal after Toronto failed to make a contract offer.

PAN AM GAMES

CANADA PROVES WORTHY STAGE

It's hard to believe now, but before the cauldron was lit there was anxiety surrounding the Pan Am Games.

There were traffic and transit concerns. The price tag seemed extraneous for what many considered a B-level event. Whispers of low ticket sales and hotel reservations hinted at financial doom and gloom.

In the years leading, the Pan Am-Parapan Am Games were on the periphery of public awareness. The brand wasn't widely loved or even well-known in Canada; top athletes from around the Americas mostly sat out.

But even though they didn't capture the imagination of a country or arguably even a city, it's hard to dump on the Games.

Getting tens of thousands of volunteers — and Kanye! — to show up, avoiding total chaos and keeping Toronto secure while hosting tens of thousands should be considered a success.

Plus, Canada achieved its goal of finishing second in the medal standings, nabbing 217. Only the U.S. won more with 265.

At the Parapans our 168 podium appearances were second only to Brazil's 257. Many of us were introduced to rising stars like sprinter Andre De Grasse, gymnast Ellie Black and point guard Jamal Murray.

In the afterglow, for a few weeks at least, Toronto thought that maybe, just maybe, it could host the Big One.

But cooler heads prevailed and Toronto's 2024 Olympic bid was taken off the table. And of course there are still reasons to gripe.

The Pan/Parapan Ams only made back $175 million on the $2.423 billion invested. Fifty-seven organizing officials sharing a $5.7-million bonus just for staying under budget still chafes.

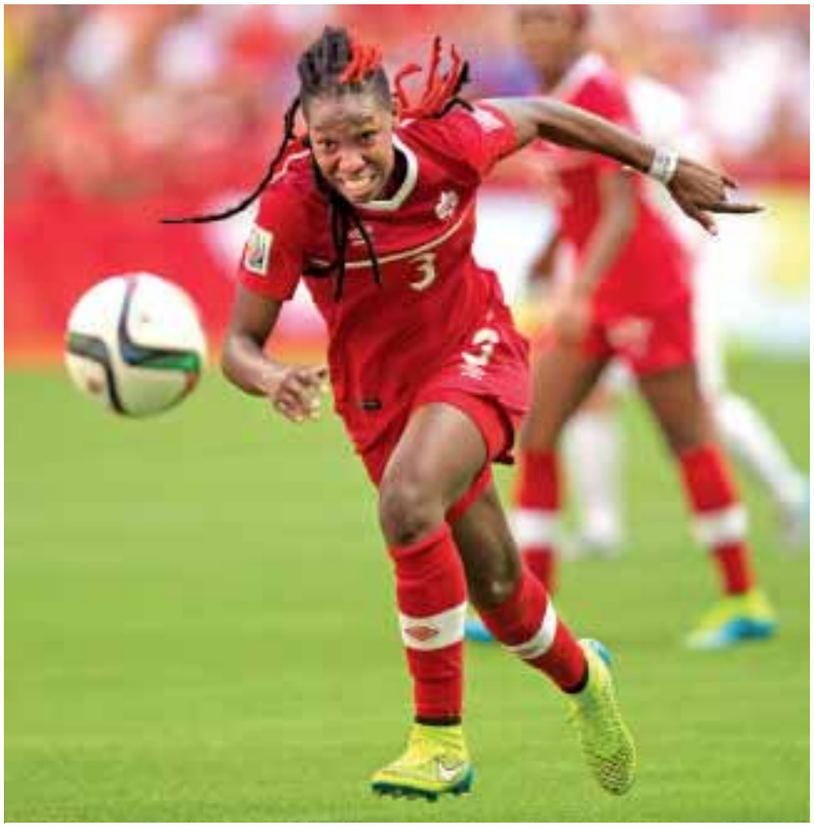
But in coming years, the sporting impact will come back into focus. Pan Am standouts will win medals at the 2016 Olympics in Rio. If Canada improves on the 18 medals it won at the 2012 Olympics, some revisionists will look back at TO2015 more fondly.

So the Pan/Parapan Am Games' real legacy will rest in the athletes of the near and farther future, and Toronto showed that it is capable of hosting THE Games. But just because you can doesn't necessarily mean you should. LAURIE WILSON/METRO

INTO THE CAPSULE

Andre DeGrasse's gold medal

Canadian athletes, like the winner of the 100-metre dash, served notice that a new generation of medal contenders are on the horizon just in time for Rio. But, despite the perceived success of the Pan Am Games, Toronto put aside its Olympic hosting dreams.



Kadeisha Buchanan chases down the ball during first half FIFA Women's World Cup quarter-final soccer action against England in Vancouver. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

STAYING FOCUSED

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Players rise up amidst FIFA corruption

Laurie Wilson
Metro | Winnipeg

On the eve of the 2015 Women's World Cup, the 24 best soccer-playing nations combatted corruption of the sport's governing body in the best way: They played the game.

Ten days prior, 14 officials were indicted by the FBI on money laundering, wire fraud and racketeering charges. The re-elected Sepp Blatter stepped down as FIFA head.

First-time hosts Canada opened with a 1-0 win over China in the opener at Commonwealth Stadium on June 6. Christine Sinclair converted from the penalty spot in the 92nd-minute kicking off the party.

Still, an issue with the playing surfaces remained. The artificial turfs reportedly boosted temperatures at field level, sucking in heat and focusing the sun on players.

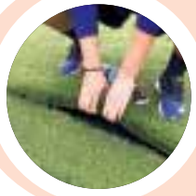
Despite going undefeated through the Round of 16, the added glare of the national spotlight seemed to do nothing but stunt the host team's attack.

John Herdman's squad showed a lack of cohesion. Four goals in five matches signalled trouble ahead of the quarter-final against England. That lack of offence ensured Lauren Sesselmann's quarter-final defensive gaffe against England would stand as the defining moment for the Reds. Sinclair's goal was not enough for Canada to avoid elimination with a 2-1 loss.

England carried that bad luck to its own 2-1 defeat in the semi-final against Japan.

The U.S. held serve with a 2-0 semi-final win over Germany. The Americans would get the chance to avenge their shootout loss to Japan in the 2011 World Cup. Carli Lloyd completed her treble at the 16-minute mark, capping off the hat-trick with an audacious mid-field strike. The Americans cruised to a 5-2 win and celebrated their third World Cup championship and first since 1999.

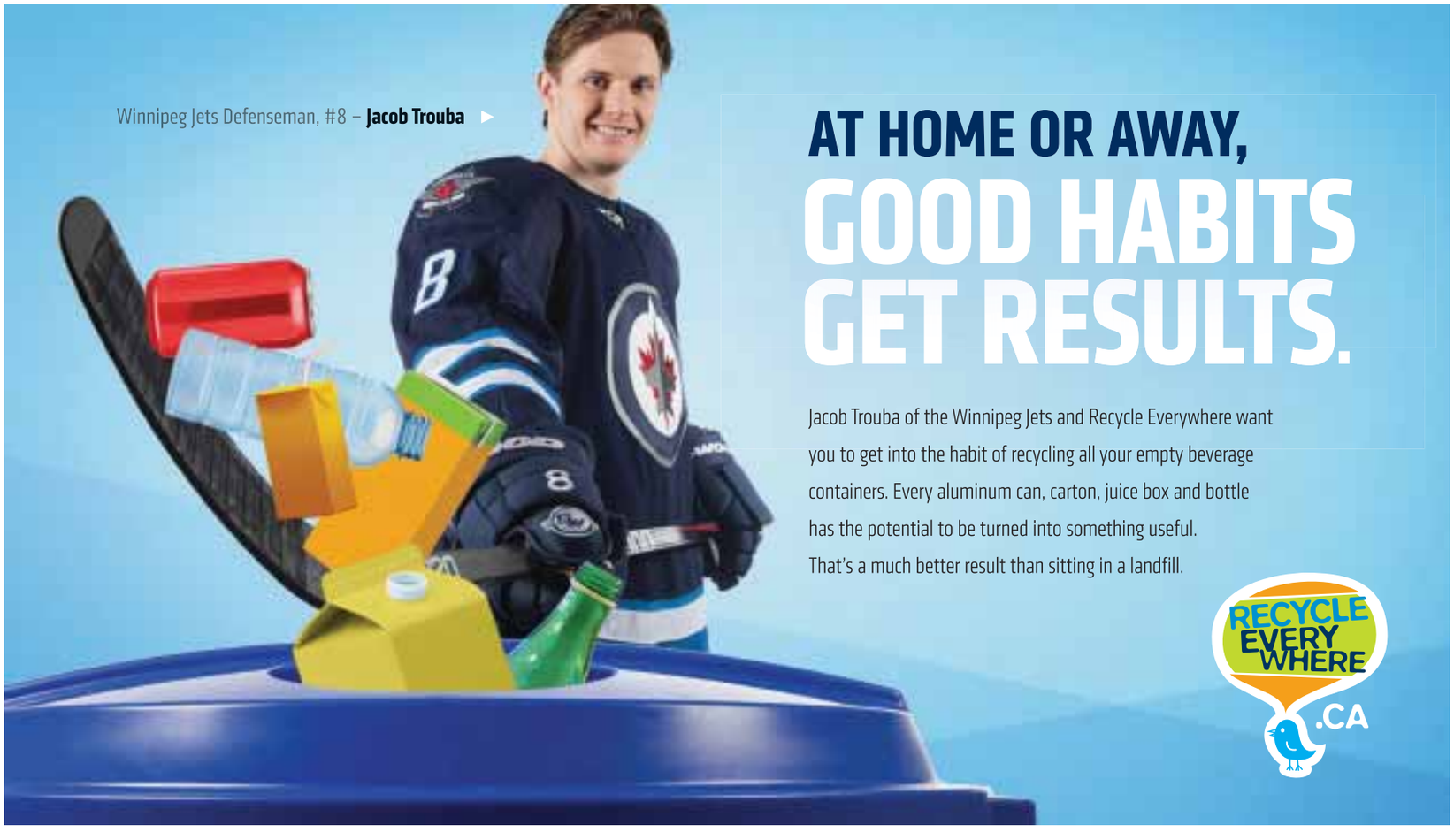
By a number of measurements the 2015 Women's World Cup was being considered the best ever just over a month after FIFA corruption threatened to overshadow the proceedings.



INTO THE CAPSULE

Piece of artificial turf from Women's World Cup

The 2015 Women's World Cup marked a turning point for FIFA and soccer in general. The event offset the dismantling and restructuring of world soccer's governing body, putting the focus back where it belongs — on the game.


Winnipeg Jets Defenseman, #8 – Jacob Trouba
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RECIPE Leftover Turkey Pot Pies

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Use up your leftover turkey and make an easy dinner with a little store-bought puff pastry.

Ready in
Prep time: 60 minutes
Serves 6

Ingredients
- 4 Tbsp butter
- 1 1/2 lbs cremini mushrooms, sliced
- 2 stalks celery, sliced
- 2 cups leftover turkey, cubed
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp fresh thyme
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 cup low sodium vegetable broth
- 1/2 cup light cream
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 package frozen puff pastry (397 grams)
- 1 egg

Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
2. In a large pot or Dutch oven, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, mushrooms, celery, thyme and pepper and cook 12 to 15 minutes until vegetables soften. Add cooked turkey and stir.
3. Sprinkle flour over and stir. Let cook for a minute or two to get rid of the raw flour taste. Stir in the stock, cream and frozen peas. Simmer for a couple minutes. Taste to check seasoning.
4. On a lightly floured countertop, roll out your puff pastry until it is 1/4-inch thick. Cut into squares that will cover your ramekins and flop over the edges a bit.
5. Ladle vegetable mixture into individual ramekins. Place a little pastry lid over each. Whisk an egg with just a bit of water in a small bowl. Brush the top of each pie with the egg wash. Take a knife and score slits into the pastry tops. Place the ramekins on a cookie sheet and bake for 25 to 30 minutes until the crusts are golden. Allow to rest and cool for at least 15 minutes before serving. They will be hot, hot, hot.

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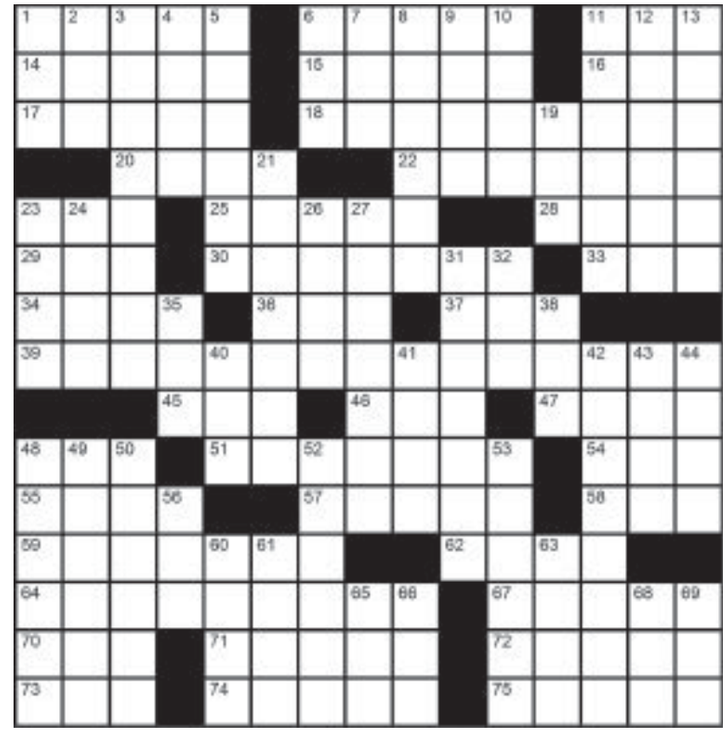
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "Deck the Halls": "_ the ancient Yule tide carol..."
6. _ _ charge (Held the helm)
11. "_ Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"
14. Hawk's habitation, variantly
15. Composed
16. Edinburgh 'uh-uh'
17. Was inclined, like Pisa
18. Christmas dessert
20. Exam
22. Exclaimed "Oh, fiddlesticks!"
23. Couple
25. Purpose
28. Better half
29. "Happy Xmas (_ Is Over)"
30. Temples of tiers
33. Said 'hello' like Rocky
34. Solo song
36. Semi
37. Eggs come in one [abbr.]
39. Extra little Christmas gift: 2 wds.
45. Suffix with 'Velvet'
46. 'L' of L.A.
47. Ms. Remini
48. Not her
51. Garden structures for shade
54. Ms. Gabor, when doubled
55. Not worth _ _ (Without value)
57. Put forth
58. Rock gr., with Led
59. Most nervous
62. Cab
64. "O Little Town of _"
67. Decrease
70. Goose: French
71. Turn while driving
72. Banish
73. Cadillac's lettered sedan
74. Noblemen
75. Tenet

DOWN
1. Puny phone
2. Particular loaf
3. 1734: "Christmas _" by Johann Sebastian Bach
4. Queue
5. Abates, perhaps as a Winter storm: 2 wds.
6. Panda logo org.
7. ETA part, briefly
8. _ up, as cars
9. "How sweet _ _!" - Jackie Gleason
10. Amsterdam's locale, briefly
11. Sort of: 3 wds.
12. Bring along: 2 wds.
13. Ranked, as top tennis players
19. Picture-taker, briefly
21. Russian empress
23. "'_ the night before Christmas..."
24. Tip to 'hog' (Wild swine)
26. Opposin'
27. Skier's eyes protection
31. Partakes in charades: 2 wds.
32. After-R trio
35. Champion
38. Baltimore Ravens org.
40. Beer barrel
41. Boo-hoos
42. Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol character
43. Simplicity
44. Queen's 'Bohemian', e.g.
48. Storage for a derby or fedora
49. Santa's sleigh spotter's shout!: 3 wds.
50. Del _ (Belonging to a famous canned fruit brand)
52. Plectrum-played instrument
53. Closed, as the Christmas card envelope
56. Informally seat theatre-goers
60. Additional
61. _ _ good example
63. Hugs and kisses on a greeting card
65. Moray _
66. Santa's wife, _. Claus
68. Tree type
69. Actor Stephen

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You don't have to do anything special or go anywhere new to get what you need — those things will find you if you stay put. Let others run around and tire themselves while you relax.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Have the courage to follow your dreams. If you reach for the sky you will achieve something truly amazing. It's time to get over your self-doubt and shine like a star again.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Things will get even better when Mercury, your ruler, changes signs towards the end of the week. Social activities and travel plans are under excellent stars at the moment, so get out and about and have fun.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Others say you're aiming too high but you're determined to prove them wrong. There is nothing you like more than a challenge but don't get so competitive that you start treating friends as rivals.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Everything you do affects what happens in the future. Also, as you think today so you will be tomorrow, and how you act tomorrow will build your future prosperity.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Before you go telling everyone what they should be doing maybe you should wait a bit. Towards the end of the week you may see the situation in a very different light.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you are the kind of Libra who enjoys organizing social events and getting involved in causes you'll enjoy yourself today. Even if you're not that kind of Libra, aim to be one.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You'll go out of your way to help people in need. Are you trying to make up for things you should have done earlier in the year? It doesn't really matter. Good works are valuable no matter the motivation.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You need to get serious about money and what happens next will force you to save. But you also need to find new sources of income, so keep your eyes and ears open.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make an effort to get your message across over the next few days, because once Mercury, planet of communication, leaves your birth sign next weekend that won't be so easy.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Allow your imagination to roam and don't reject ideas because they seem far-fetched. You have the power to make things happen but they won't just happen as if by magic. Visualize your goals then act decisively.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Others may say you're acting irrationally but so what? Most likely they are simply jealous because they are stuck in the past and don't share your ability to look ahead.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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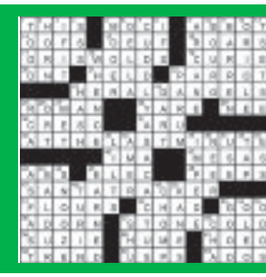

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